



STATE OF MICHIGAN

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Michigan Surgeon General Spotlights Students, Adult Leaders and Teachers at “Generation With Promise” Youth Summit 2008

DETROIT – Michigan Surgeon General Kimberlydawn Wisdom, M.D., M.S. united middle school-aged students, adult leaders and teachers from two Benton Harbor schools and eight Southeastern Michigan (Detroit, Hamtramck, Highland Park and Pontiac) schools for the “Generation With Promise” Youth Summit 2008 at Focus: HOPE Center for Advanced Technologies in Detroit on Friday, May 16. About 200 students are members of their schools’ Student Action Teams and they joined their adult leaders who serve on Coordinated School Health Teams.

A fun-filled day of interactive experiences and leadership training kicked off with a rally featuring Dr. Kimberlydawn Wisdom, FM 98 WJLB radio personalities Dr. Darius and Sun Shyne, plus other special guests. A video presentation featuring Detroit professional sports personalities included members of the Pistons, Shock and Tigers teams expressing their support and enthusiasm for the students and their “Generation With Promise” goals.

“The Youth Summit has provided an opportunity for everyone involved with the ‘Generation With Promise’ to share success stories about making healthy choices at school, at home, and in our community,” said Dr. Wisdom. “This project addresses in a proactive, sustainable, and exciting way the growing crisis of child and adolescent obesity as students develop peer leadership skills around exercising, eating better, and not smoking.”

“Generation With Promise” is a \$5-million initiative funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, and led by Dr. Wisdom and an interdisciplinary team organized by the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH). The project links Governor Jennifer M. Granholm’s Cities of Promise initiative in vulnerable communities with MDCH and the “Michigan Steps Up” healthy lifestyles initiative. The three-year project will empower and support Student Action Teams to be actively involved in making decisions, planning actions, prioritizing needs and promoting new opportunities for students to make healthy choices.

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In addition to the Cities of Promise, other partners with MDCH for “Generation With Promise” are the Governor’s Council on Physical Fitness, Health & Sports/Michigan Fitness Foundation, Michigan Department of Education, Michigan Action for Healthy Kids, Cities of Promise local health departments, the Michigan State University Extension, University of Michigan and Wayne State University.

In its first year, “Generation With Promise” 10 participating schools include Benton Harbor’s Fair Plain Renaissance Middle and Hull Middle Schools; Detroit’s Burns Elementary, Hutchins/McMichael Elementary, J.F. Nichols Elementary/Middle, Taft Middle, Trix Elementary/Middle Schools; Hamtramck’s Kosciuszko Middle School; Highland Park’s Barber School of the Gifted and Talented, and Pontiac’s Madison Middle School. The program will expand in years two and three to include up to 21 more Cities of Promise schools in a competitive funding process. For more information, visit www.michiganstepsup.org.

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation was established in 1930 “to help people help themselves through the practical application of knowledge and resources to improve their quality of life and that of future generations”. The Foundation targets its grants toward specific areas, including health, food systems and rural development, youth and education, and philanthropy and volunteerism. Grants are concentrated in the United States, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the southern African countries of Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Swaziland, and Zimbabwe. For further information, please visit the foundation’s Web site at www.wkkf.org.

INTERVIEW AVAILABILITY: Dr. Wisdom, “Generation With Promise” staff and partners are available for interviews from 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. on May 16, 2008.

PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES: Student rally with Dr. Wisdom and special celebrity guests...students working in teams with adult mentors...and students building leadership skills around making healthy choices.

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